



# ***In the Short Run...***

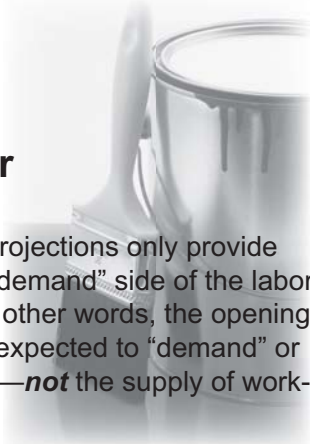
## **We've got Occupational Projections**

**by Lecia Parks Langston**

The late and great British economist, John Maynard Keynes, once said, "In the long run, we're all dead." Perhaps that's why we generate occupational projections both for the short run (out two years) and the long run (out 10 years). Of course, most of us won't be "dead" in 10 years, but projections for both time periods can definitely be useful for those making training decisions.

### **Projections**

#### **Primer**



Remember, these projections only provide information on the "demand" side of the labor market equation. In other words, the openings that employers are expected to "demand" or have by occupation—*not* the supply of workers.

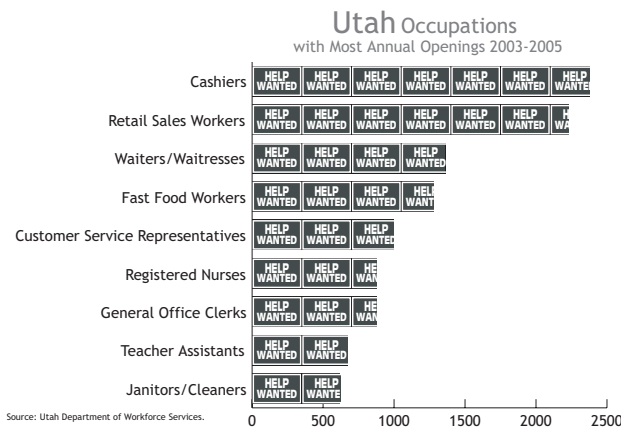
Job openings occur for two reasons. First, replacement job openings are produced when workers leave the occupation for retirement, for a new occupation, or whatever reason. In addition, "growth" openings are generated when existing companies expand or new companies move to the area.

### **Trends and Patterns**

Current short-term projections reflect the 2003 to 2005 time period. Comparing the occupations with the largest openings for both the long-term and short-term projection periods shows the same occupations on top. This should not be a total surprise. Remember, openings come from replacement and growth. The occupations with the most openings are typically those with the highest employment overall.

Every set of projections (statewide or national) I've seen had retail sales persons and cashiers at the top of the list of occupations with the most openings. These two occupations also maintain the largest share of total employment of any occupational category.

Other high-opening occupations for 2003-2005 include waiters/waitresses, fast food workers, customer service representatives, registered nurses, office clerks, etc. These are all occupations with current large employment bases.



## Fast Growers

Occupations can also be ranked by their rate of growth. In the 2003-2005 projections, pharmacists, medical assistants, home health aides all rank among the fastest-growing occupations (see chart), highlighting the trend of rapid medical occupation expansion.

## Looking for Higher Pay?

Of course, many (but not all) of these occupations pay lower-than-average wages. Most folks making a career choice might be interested in occupations with lots of openings *and* high wages. Occupations with at least 100 annual openings and high wages from the 2003-2005 projections include:

- Chief Executives
- Lawyers
- Pharmacists
- Computer Software Engineers
- Sales Managers
- General/Operations Managers
- Financial Managers
- Management Analysts
- Construction Managers
- Computer Systems Analysts

For more information on Utah's occupational projections see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/occexpDefault.jsp>

